

PASTOR’S NOTES

40 in the ‘40 days of Lent’ —

If you count the actual number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday you will end up with 47 days. **So how do we end up with ‘40 days of Lent’?**

As with many things there are numerous historical events and turning points that have brought us to where we are today and the same is true about our commonly understood notion of ‘40 days of Lent ‘ that comprise the season of Lent.

In the earliest days of the Church (*Good Friday*) celebrated Christ’s death with (*Holy Saturday*) celebrating Christ’s time in the tomb and (*Easter Sunday*) culminating in Christ’s resurrection from the dead. These days were known as the **Paschal triduum**. Soon Thursday (celebrating Christ’s Last Supper) was incorporated into the days of the Paschal Triduum. But soon this whole week came to be directed towards the paschal festivities of Christ’s life-giving death and resurrection. **This has come to be known as Holy Week in common parlance** with the Triduum being Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday evening). Holy Week is meant to be a final, intense and focused meditation on the events that led up to **That Event**, which changed time and history.

On a second big historical note the sense of the faithful was that, since the glory of Easter was celebrated over the course of 50 days (the Easter season), there should be a similar length of time in penitential preparation for what Christ did in his agonizing passion and death in saving the human race. This is where the number 40 comes into play.

In Scripture 40 is a highly symbolic number. Forty represents a critical amount of time during which serious transformations of life happen. For example — it rained for **40** days and **40** nights during the time of Noah and the great flood; God forms the people of Israel during **40** years in the desert of the Exodus journey; Moses spends **40** days on Mt. Sinai when receiving the Ten Commandments; King David, to whom God makes a promise of a messiah, reigns as king for **40** years; Elijah walks **40** days to Mt. Horeb to receive the call to be Israel’s first prophet; Christ fasted for **40** days in the desert before beginning his public ministry; after the Resurrection Christ appears for **40** days upon the earth before ascending to heaven.

In addition to the more intense focus of Holy Week and the fact that Christ spent **40** days in the desert, **40** seems an appropriate amount of penitential preparation to make up the season of Lent. Together ‘40 days of Lent and Holy Week seems a good balance to the 50 festive days celebrating Easter glory. In order to get ‘40 days of Lent’, Lent has to begin on Ash Wednesday and go to Palm/Passion Sunday when the special focused preparatory time of Holy Week begins. And so it is we arrive at ‘40 days of Lent’.

May our ‘40 days of Lent’ and Holy Week awaken us to the mystery of God’s love-suffering for the human race and the promise of resurrected life for all who give themselves to Christ.

God’s Gift Appeal

This week most parish households should have received Bishop John Folda’s letter seeking our support of the many works of the diocesan church. **This request is known as the God’s Gift Appeal.** The total 2022 God’s Gift Appeal for the Diocese of Fargo amounts to \$3,421,865. Each parish/mission in the Diocese of Fargo is asked to meet a certain goal towards that total diocesan goal of \$3,421,865.

St. Leo’s 2022 parish goal is \$51,011. St. Thomas’ 2022 parish goal is \$12,214. If each parish household in our 2 parishes were to each contribute \$210 we would meet our parish goals. Your generous support in this matter is deeply appreciated.



St. Leo’s Catholic Church
211 Langer Ave North
PO Box 340
Casselton ND
347-4609

St. Thomas Catholic Church
401 Third St. North
PO Box 22
Buffalo ND
633-5150



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 27, 2022

Weekend Mass Schedule for St. Leo’s and St. Thomas

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Thomas, 10:30 am St. Leo’s

2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Leo’s, 10:30 am St. Thomas

Every Saturday: 5:00 pm at St. Leo’s

Mass Intentions for the week of Feb 27:

Mon - Feb 28 – 9:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran

Tues - Mar 1 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo’s — NO MASS

Wed- Mar 2– Ash Wednesday – 5:30 pm– St. Thomas - **Larry Zaun**

7:00 pm– St. Leo’s

NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s

Thurs - Mar 3 – 9:00 am - +**Jerry Volk** by Carol Nilles

Fri., Mar 4 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Mar 5 - 5:00 pm - Larry Zaun by Missy Poulson

Sun - Mar 6 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - +Julie Levos

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth/Nicole Scherweit

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain:

Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555

Kelsey Lako: 793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo’s Directors: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon

St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

*Sacrament of Reconciliation
at St. Leo’s*

4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday

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at St. Thomas*

8:00 - 8:15 am

before all 8:30 am Masses

~ Anytime by appointment

*~ Communal Services during
Advent and Lent*

New Members: If you are new to the area, we would love to have you as a registered member. To register as a new member of the parish, please visit with Fr. Ermer after Mass.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Feb 27 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Tues., Mar 1 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory  
Wed. Mar 2 - NO Religious Education classes at St. Leo’s and St. Thomas due to Ash Wednesday Masses  
**Wed., Mar 2 - Ash Wednesday– 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo’s in Casselton**  
Sun., Mar 6 - 9:00 am– 12:00 pm– KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
Wed., Mar 9 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
6:30 pm - St. Leo’s RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
K/1st grade - Group B meets  
6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
Thurs., Mar 10 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Area Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
Fri., Mar 11 - 5:30 pm - KC Lenten Fish Fry in the Spirit of Life Center



**Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** There is an assortment of cards for all occasions available for purchase in church entry. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

**Palms:** If you have old palms at home, please bring them to church. We will use them for ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Mar 5<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo’s           | Sunday Mar 6<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Mar 6<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo’s |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lector                                                                             | Tricia Gегelman/<br>Lois Titus                   | Gary Milbrandt                        | Anna Garman                           |
| Eucharistic Ministers                                                              | Lucy Wagner                                      |                                       | Pam Spooner                           |
| Altar Servers                                                                      | Tristian Lako<br>Ethan Richard<br>Olivia Richard |                                       | Isabelle Dutchuk<br>Garman Family     |
| Offertory Collectors                                                               | Volunteers needed                                |                                       | Volunteers needed                     |
| Gift Bearers                                                                       | Parisien Family                                  |                                       | Henderson Family                      |

NEWS AND NOTES

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd  
Mass Schedule:

5:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas  
7:00 pm Mass at St. Leo’s

We are looking for Mass servers, Mass Coordinator and EMHC volunteers for the Ash Wednesday Mass. A sign up sheet is located in the church entry.

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**John & Sharyn Melting - 57 years on March 1**  
**Robert & Mary Lynne Snyder - 60 yrs on March 24**

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Finn Russell Fraase, son of Matthew and Alison.  
*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide him to live as a child of God.*

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Kaylyn Grommesh and her family on the death of her grandmother, Arlis Pfiingsten.  
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

Casselton United Singers will be performing **Portraits in Grace: A Cantata for Holy Week** on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at St. Leo’s Church. **All singers are welcome to join us!** Practices will be on Sunday afternoons, **4– 5:30 pm** at St. Leo’s Church beginning on **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, call Sue Knoll (701-261-2047) or Mary Gohdes (701-361-2655). Please consider joining the group as we move through the season of Lent!



**St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:** The Knight for the month of **February** is **Jared Nelson**. Thank you Jared for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Serving Biscuits and gravy. Free will offering.

**Calling all Musicians:** We are hoping that you would consider joining us to lead the music for the Holy Triduum– Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday– April 14-17, 2022. Here is a schedule of our practice times. **First practice will be Sunday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> from 9– 10:00 am (before 10:30 Mass), in the choir loft.**

**Practice schedule:**  
Sun., Mar 6– 9:00– 10:00 am  
Sun., Mar 13– 9:30– 10:30 am  
Sun., Mar 20– 9:00– 10:00 am  
Sun., Mar 27– 9:30– 10:30 am  
Sun., Apr 3– 9:00– 10:00 am  
Sun., Apr 10– 9:30-10:30 am

A music binder will be ready for you when you get to rehearsal. We would love to have you join us for all (or some) of these great liturgies! Call if you have any questions! Sue Knoll (701)262-2047

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**  
*“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” ~ Luke 6:43*  
Are you using your gifts in the way God intended? Have you asked God how He would like you to use them? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don’t have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.